



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MONTANA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES TO 3.5%**

HELENA, Mont. --- The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.5% in August, down from 3.8% in July. Employment numbers showed a slight decrease of 200 jobs between July and August, though the bulk of job losses were expected and can be attributed to local government school districts not yet rehiring the majority of their staff for the fall semester.

“Recently released 2004 to 2014 projections predict that many of the fastest growing occupations will require training beyond high-school. This underscores the importance of education as Montana continues to move to a more knowledge-based economy,” said Commissioner Keith Kelly. “If industries such as Professional and Business Services and Healthcare are to keep growing, workers must continue to advance their skills and education levels.”

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities saw the largest increase in jobs, adding 400 positions. Professional and Business Services grew by 300, while Manufacturing, Leisure and Hospitality, and Private Education and Health Services<sup>\*\*</sup> added 200 jobs. Financial Activities and Other Services<sup>\*\*</sup> increased by 100 jobs, while Natural Resources and Mining and Information<sup>\*\*</sup> each saw no change in employment. Construction

decreased by 100 jobs, while Government saw a decline of 1,000 positions, most of which were contained in local government school districts.

Additional information related to this employment situation press release can be found by visiting the Research and Analysis website at [www.ourfactsyourfuture.org](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org)

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*\*Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

*\*\*These industry sectors are not-seasonally adjusted.*

**\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\***

**County unemployment rates are also available in our monthly economic bulletin, *Montana Economy at a Glance*, and on our website.**

**Labor Force data for Montana Indian Reservations is available on the Research and Analysis Bureau's website at:**

[www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121)

**The September 2006 Labor Situation Report will be released Friday October 20, 2006.**